CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	"the is the secret (engl.)"
Other known title(s):	"this is the secret"
OFLC ref:	1200889.011
Medium:	Comic
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	Not stated
Language:	English
Applicant:	Hamilton District Court
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
Descriptive note:	Contains horror scenes.
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	06 November 2012
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued
Date of notice of decision:	No notice of decision has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

The unrestricted availability of this often gruesome horror comic is likely to be injurious to the public good. Children and young teenagers are likely to find the story and many of the images considerably shocking and disturbing. However, older teenagers and adults will recognise the absurdity of the story and the vein of gleeful black humour in its execution. A restriction to persons who have attained the age of 16 years is sufficient to minimise any likelihood of injury to the public good.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the NZBR Act on the application of all the classification criteria. The right to freedom of expression has been weighed against the likelihood of injury to the public good if the comic is made available without restriction. Given the likelihood of harm to children and young teenagers that has been identified, a restriction to older teenagers and adults is reasonable, demonstrably justified, and the minimum required to avoid injury to the public good.